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ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD.

It will be interesting to Americans visiting England, particularly those rich Americans who are on the lookout for old and interesting relics, works of art, and so forth, to learn that a bill will be introduced in parliament next session for the purpose of making illegal "knockout" as practiced at auctions. Knockout flourishes in every part of the country, and wherever sales by auction are held. It consists in an agreement between dealers attending the sale not to bid above a given price for a certain article or number of articles. If a lot is knocked down to a member of the ring all the members of the ring meet after the sale and hold a private auction among themselves. An article which has been bought at the sale for \$50 may fetch \$100 at the knockout. The difference is shared between the members of the ring.

✱ Begging visitors pestered Miss Helen Gould during her recent visit to Paris. She subscribed \$200 for a new organ in one American church; in another she bought a pew outright and made it perpetually free to visitors; she made handsome gifts of money to the Young Women's Christian union and to Miss Hoff's hotel for girl students, and she subscribed to the American hospital fund. Friends induced her to visit the Latin quarter in the hope that she would give generously to the cause of American art. They were greatly disappointed. Miss Gould looked coldly on the life of the quarter, bought nothing, subscribed to nothing, indeed, gave the impression that art seems to her to have a diabolical tinge.

✱ A serious movement has been undertaken in France to insure to artists their rights in their works, not only during their lives, but for the benefit of their heirs. The project has been academically discussed for a long time, but the movement is now taking definite form, and M. Briand, Minister of Fine Arts, has promised to support it in Parliament. Among the leaders of the artists who secured M. Briand's promise of aid are Besnard, Jourdain, Lecomte, Desvallieres and Delpeuch. The latter is president of the Amis du Luxembourg. The time-worn instance of Millet's sale for \$500 of "The Angelus," which was resold in Paris for \$15,000, his heirs not getting a penny, is brought up again. A newer instance is that of the widow of Lepine, who is obliged to go out and do day's work as a house servant, while Lepine's paintings are selling for \$2,000. It is argued that the literati and dramatic composers are no more entitled to continued rights in their works than painters and sculptors. The organizers of the movement do not, of course, seek to affect rights obtained at a private sale, but aim to have the government, which now collects 10 per cent additional on Drouot sales, levy 2 per cent more on works of art sold at auction there, and to pay this to the artist or his direct heirs until 50 years after his death.

✱ Sir George Donaldson, the famous collector, has discovered in France and brought to England a new Velasquez, identified as the portrait of Calabacas. The portrait, which has been lost sight of for nearly half a century, represents a simple-looking youth about eighteen years of age standing erect with a miniature in the right hand, and in the left a note in a cleft stick. It is considered a fine example of the early middle period of the master.